5. General discussion on Manipur Budget for 2001-2002.

6. Consideration and return of the Manipur Appropriation Bill, 2001 after it has been passed by Lok Sabha.

7. Consideration and passing of the Jute Manufacturers Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2001 after it has been passed by Lok Sabha.

8. Resolutions seeking approval of the House to the rejection of Award of Board of Arbitration on:

   (i) Grant of Special pay to Private Secretaries (Merged grades 'A' and 'B' of the CSSS) in CA reference number 2 of 1991.

   (ii) Upward revision of pay scale in the grade of stenographers Grade 'D' in CA reference number 11 of 1992.

   (iii) Revision of rates of Over Time Allowance in CA reference number 6 of 1981.

   (iv) Reduction of working hours of the operative offices of the Departments of Posts and Telecommunications in CA reference number 9(a) of 1980.

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## MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

### Alleged presence of five Union Ministers in A VHP meeting

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday a prominent newspaper carried a very disturbing report that five Ministers of the Union Government attended a recent meeting convened by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and that that meeting endorsed VHP's decision to start the construction of a temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya by 12th March, 2002, despite the orders of the Supreme Court to maintain the *status quo*.

Sir, that members of the Union Council of Ministers should provide such direct support and encouragement to patently illegal acts is, indeed, very shocking, and such blatant defiance of the law of the land has to be squarely condemned.

I would request that the Prime Minister or the Leader of the House should clarify the Government's position in this regard.

**श्री राजनाथ सिंह "सूर्य"** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन, मंत्रियों ने स्वयं खंडन किया है...(**व्यवधान**)...

**श्री सुरेश पचौरी** (मध्य प्रदेश) : वे खड़े हो रहे हैं। आप क्यों परेशान हो रहे हैं।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Sir, I would like to make it clear that the Ministers, whose names were mentioned, had denied any such endorsement. They have clearly stated that the report is wrong. So far as the Government of India is concerned, we would like to make it clear that the Government is committed to ensure that the Supreme Court's orders in respect of maintaining the *status quo* at the disputed site at Ayodhya are scrupulously adhered to. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L. K. Advani, has already categorically affirmed in the Parliament that nobody will be allowed to violate this order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal) : Sir we would like to know whether the Ministers concerned met the VHP President or not. ...*(Interruptions)*... and whether the VHP President was discussing the Delhi weather with them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has refuted. Now, Dr. Raja Ramanna.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, we would like...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Dr. Raja Ramanna. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Raja Ramanna.

**The Mode of Raising Issues in the House**

DR. RAJA RAMANNA (Nominated): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this chance. I would like to express my concern about various things that have happened in the last few months, and certainly yesterday. I would like to state why I am making this remark. I may not be an old-time Member of Parliament, but I have seen Parliament in operation over a very long time, right from its inception, when I used to see it from the Visitors' Gallery and see Sardar Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru controlling the House. But in recent times and I say this because I am only a Nominated Member and have that insignificance by which I represent the whole country in that sense, because there are a lot of insignificant people in this country all that I